

## **Preparing Maryland's Students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Governor O'Malley's Education Record**

*"If we truly wish to prepare our children for the challenges of tomorrow, we must recognize that education can be about so much more than reading, writing and arithmetic." – Governor O'Malley, April 22, 2008*

During his tenure, Governor O'Malley made comprehensive investments in K-12 education a top priority, from new programs to prepare students for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy; to creating new, innovative learning spaces that help students, teachers, support staff and administrators harness the power of technology.

These better choices have led to better results: Maryland's public schools were named best in America five years in a row; more students are succeeding in AP testing than anywhere in America; and Maryland is among the nation's leaders in closing the income achievement gap.

This year, the O'Malley-Brown administration is sponsoring a bill that establishes a competitive Pre-kindergarten Expansion Grant Program through which local jurisdictions can apply for additional funds to expand and supplement their existing prekindergarten programs. The Administration has included \$4.3 million in the FY15 budget to fund the Program, which is expected to support half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten programs for roughly 1,600 children.

The Administration has adopted the following strategies to improve Maryland's public schools:

- **State Support of K-12 Education: Named #1 Public Schools in America Five Years in a Row**
  - Even during the recession, Governor O'Malley increased school funding to record amounts including \$6.1 billion in the FY15 budget.
  - Governor O'Malley invested \$45.4 billion in Maryland's K-12 public schools during his Administration, 37% more than the previous administration.
- **School Construction Funding: Record Yearly Funding during Great Recession**
  - Governor O'Malley has invested nearly \$2.7 billion in school construction funding – an average of \$335 million per year in school construction. This yearly average is 34% higher than the Kopp Commission's recommendation of \$250 million, Governor Ehrlich's yearly average of \$211 million, and Governor Glendening's yearly average of \$206.5 million.
  - These investments included groundbreakings on new schools in Baltimore City, the first new schools in the City in a generation.
- **Early Childhood Education: More Children Ready for Kindergarten Than Ever Before**
  - Judy Centers are early childhood education and family support programs located near Title I schools.
  - The Centers partner with local agencies, organizations and businesses to provide services to Judy Center families, all with the goal of increasing the number of children entering school ready to learn.
- **College and Career Readiness: #1 in AP Scoring for 8 Straight Years**
  - Governor O'Malley created the Early College Innovation Fund, which provides grants to local school systems to expand dual enrollment.
  - The Administration expanded Career and Technology Education to help prepare them for jobs in the state's high-tech workforce.
  - Governor O'Malley created the Maryland Digital Learning Innovation Fund in 2013. The fund provides resources to local school districts to maximize the potential of new and emerging technologies to improve student outcomes.
  - Maryland joined 45 other states in adopting Common Core standards for math, reading and language arts, and has partnered with other states to develop the PARCC assessments.
- **STEM Education: Increased STEM College Graduates by 25% and Achieved Record AP STEM Participation**
  - The State partnered with the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) to create the STEM Innovation Network to support educators in the STEM disciplines.
  - STEMnet will provide universal access to STEM information, resources and opportunities in Maryland by establishing a virtual community where educators can promote new and innovative programs and share critical information.